

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ARA-10 EA-10 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-13 ISO-00

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 HA-05 OMB-01

TRSE-00 /120 W

-----063545 010754Z /23

R 311729Z MAR 78

FM AMEMBASSY LAGOS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7548

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM

AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAPUTO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L LAGOS 4071

CAPETOWN FOR EMBASSY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PORG, SF, WA, NI

SUBJECT: NAMIBIA: AMBASSADOR YOUNG MEETS WITH WESTERN FIVE AMBASSADOR

FIVE AMEMBASSADOR IN LAGOS

1. AMBASSADORS YOUNG AND EASUM MET INFORMALLY AM MARCH 30 WITH THE OTHER WESTERN FIVE AMBASSADORS IN LAGOS. AMBASSADOR YOUNG BRIEFED THEM GENERALLY ON THE PURPOSE AND RESULTS OF HIS VISIT TO SOUTHERN AFRICA AND THEN SPOKE MORE BROADLY ABOUT THE POLITICAL SITUATION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. AMBASSADOR YOUNG STATED THAT A
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LACK OF SUCCESS BY THE WESTERN FIVE ON NAMIBIA WILL JEOPARDIZE THE GOOD RELATIONS WHICH THE WEST'S EFFORTS HAVE SO FAR ENGENDERED AND WILL ALSO ADVERSELY AFFECT THE SITUATION IN RHODESIA. A LACK OF SUCCESS IN RHODESIA WILL CREATE A SITATUION IN SOUTHERN AFRICA WHICH WILL RESULT IN INCREASED SOVIET AND CUBAN INVOLVEMENT. SUCH A SIUTATION WOULD BE DETRIMENTAL TO THE WEST, TO SOUTH AFRICA, AND TO AFRICA AS A WHOLE. THE WEST'S

INTERESTS IN AFRICA ARE ESSENTIALLY IN SEEING STABILITY AND ORDER. THE SOVIETS' ARE THE OPPOSITE. IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE SUCCESS IN NAMIBIA, AMBASSADOR YOUNG CONTINUED, WE MUST CONFRONT THE SOUTH AFRICANS WITH A UNIFIED WESTERN APPROACH (ALONG THE LINES SUGGESTED BY FRG FOREIGN MINISTER GENSCHER OF A DEMARCHE TO CAPE TOWN BY THE WESTERN FIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS) WHICH WILL REQUIRE SOUTH AFRICA TO CHOOSE BETWEEN COOPERATING WITH THE WEST OR ISOLATING THEMSELVES. A CLEAR-CUT DECISION OF THIS VARIETY COULD ACTIVATE THE MODERATES IN SOUTH AFRICA -- A GROUP WHOS EXISTENCE MAY BE SEEN IN THE FACT THAT APPROXIMATELY ONE MILLION WHITE SOUTH AFRICANS (TWO-THIRDS OF THE WHITE VOTERS) DID NOT VOTE FOR THE NATIONALIST PARTY IN THE SOUTH AFRICAN REFERENDUM OF LAST FALL. ON BOTH NAMIBIA AND RHODESIA, AMBASSADOR YOUNG ADDED, NYERERE AND KAUNDA ARE PREPARED TO MOVE FORWARD ONLY ON THE BASIS OF THE AAP AND THE WESTERN FIVE PROPOSAL. THEY WANT TO KNOW IF THE WEST IS COMMITTED TO ITS OWN PROPOSALS.

3. THE WESTERN FIVE AMBASSADORS QUESTIONED AMBASSADOR YOUNG EXTENSIVELY ON HIS PERCEPTIONS ON SOUTHERN AFRICA. BRITISH AMBASSADOR FALLE BEGAN BY ASKING AMBASSADOR YOUNG'S ASSESSMENT OF THE PERSONALITIES OF THE PATRIOTIC FRONT AND OTHER NATIONALIST LEADERS IN RHODESIA. IN GIVING THAT ASSESSMENT, AMBASSADOR YOUNG NOTED THAT NO ONE REALLY KNOWS THE COMPARATIVE STRENGTHS OF NKOMO, MUGABE, MUZOREWEA, OR SITHOLE. HE ADDED THAT IT IS HIS IMPRESSION, BASED ON HIS CONVERSATIONS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT BELIEVES THAT MUZOREWA HAS LOST
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ELECTORAL STRENGTH THROUGH JOINING WITH SMITH AND THAT THE PATRIOTIC FRONT IS NOW WILLING TO FACE HIM AT THE POLLS. FALLE CONTINUED BY STATING THAT, ON THE BASIS OF HIS EXPERIENCE IN NEGOTIATIONS PRIMARILY WITH ARABS, HE WOULD EXPECT THAT MUZOREWA'S ACTIONS WOULD RESULT IN POLITICAL IF NOT PHYSICAL SUICIDE. YOUNG RESPONDED THAT A CLIMATE OF ASSASSINATION DOES NOT YET EXIST IN RHODESIA. HE ADDED THAT NYERERE AND KAUNDA BELIEVE THAT MUZOREWA CAN STILL WALK AWAY FROM SMITH AND RECOVER.

4. TURNING AGAIN TO NAMIBIA, THE FRENCH AMBASSADOR ASKED WHETHER THE ASSASSINATION OF KAPUWO WOULD AFFECT OUR EFFORTS. WHEN AMBASSADOR YOUNG REPLIED THAT HE THOUGHT IT WOULD BUT THAT HE DID NOT KNOW HOW, THE CANADIAN AMBASSADOR ASKED IF THE FIVE SHOULD RESPOND TO THE ASSASSINATION IN SOME WAY WHICH MIGHT TAKE OUR EFFORT BEYOND IT. YOUNG REPLIED THAT AMBASSADOR BOWDLER HAS RECOMMENDED A VISIT OF THE WESTERN FIVE FOREIGN MINISTERS TO CAPE TOWN.

EASUM

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS MEETINGS, POLITICAL SITUATION
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
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